

however, that Bragg is right in one respect. He has not influenced Mr. Davis against me, for the simple reason that the latter knew him too well to attach any importance to his letter. Mr. D's treatment has all grown out of the unintentional offence I gave him in our unfortunate interview. This, he will never forget, or forgive. He will wait 'till the adjournment of Congress, & will then drop me. I think that your Delegation could save me from this degradation, but I feel unwilling to annoy your Body with my personal matters.

You promised me the letter of the Delegation to Mr. Seddon, signed in full by all the members. I feel very anxious to get it, as a vindication of my memory to my children, when I am no more. You will confer a great favor by sending me a copy of it.

I was packed up, ready to go to Georgia, when I learned that communication with Beauregard was cut off, and that Bragg was in command. It chafes me to be idle at such a time, but I am too feeble for the ranks, & no other service will ever be given me.

I told you last summer that Mr. Davis would not keep faith with your Delegation, & that, having raised the quibble that he could not give me a command, because I had not reported for duty, he would not give me one after such report.

I have thought that an application from the N.C. Delegation for me to have command of the N.C. troops in Lee's Army, might bring him to terms. My friends write that this is the wish of the troops. Of that I know nothing personally. But I feel sure that, whatever their feelings may be to me as an individual, they have great regard for me as a soldier.

My wife has not been well since the birth of her baby, & her state of health has operated injuriously on the child. It has been well for my family that my banishment has been so long.

Have you ever read anything like Hood's movement into Tennessee?³⁶³ Has it a parallel in all history? Who is the author of it? If the expedition prove a disaster, (and it surely will) poor Hood

³⁶³ This reference is to Gen. John Bell Hood's invasion of Tennessee in an abortive attempt to lure Sherman north from Georgia. Hood was decisively beaten by George Henry Thomas at the Battle of Nashville (December 15-16, 1864). The shattered Army of Tennessee withdrew to northern Mississippi where, in January, 1865, Hood was relieved of command at his request. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 305-309.